

A MEMOIR

PARAM CHA

AKHILESHWAR
PRASAD

A MEMOIR

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PRASAD

A MEMOIR

PARAM CHA

Author

Akhileshwar Prasad

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Dedicated to:

All family-members

Foreword

This is a compilation of writings of Shri Akhileshwar Prasad, whom we lovingly call Nantun Chacha. Here, he has written memoir of his uncle, Shri (Late) Paramanand Prasad in WhatsApp in our family-group called, “Family-Roots of Us”.

I feel fortunate to compile them at one place and giving it form of a book.

When I read the writings of Akhileshwar Chacha about Parmanand Baba; I feel that the message and philosophy contained in this book is like the Sun that spreads light in all direction. But, if we want to make a fire, we have to focus all the sun’s rays on one spot. Fire, not just for burning, but fire also for transforming wheat into bread.

Abhishek Goutam Ambasth

Grand-Grand-Grand-Grandson of Shri (Late) Manorath Lal
Grandson of Shri (Late) Anand Kishore Prasad @ Tintin Baboo, and
Son of Shri Arvind Kumar Sinha

Allahabad

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"Weekend Namestey"
"A tribute to Param ChaCha"

Part-1

He was an iconoclast like great English dramatist George Bernard Shaw.
(Iconoclast – Someone who often criticises belief and things that are generally accepted by society)

He was an atheist (नास्तिक).

He always philosophically questioned the very existence of God.

He vaguely reminded me of German philosopher, Nietzsche, who declared that 'God is dead'.

He never bowed his head before god or any deity from his adolescent age to the last breath of his life.

He was one and only one with such conviction (belief) amongst our family members, nay, amongst our entire relatives. He was none other than our Param Cha.

Key-words/phrases:

Iconoclast

Atheist (नास्तिक)

Nietzsche

George Bernard Shaw

Something on the lighter note:

Judge -- What are you Charged with?

Defendant--Doing my Christmas shopping early, Sir!

Judge--Well, that's not a crime. How early were you doing this shopping?

Defendant--Before the store had opened!!

"Weekend Namestey"
"A tribute to Param ChaCha"

Part-2

He was none other than our Param Cha.

Param Cha (we address him as Param Babu) s/o late Bhagwat Prasad, was youngest among his brothers.

He studied in the prestigious Presidency College of Calcutta (now Kolkata). He worked and retired as a Co-operative officer from Bihar Co-operative Department.

He firmly refused to accept anything until it was proved on the criterion of reasoning. Reasoning for him was the sole barometer to gauge the depth of truth.

In his thinking, I find the echo of Vivekanand's argument "for it is better that mankind should become atheist by following reason than blindly believe in two million gods on the authority of anybody"

I asked once, “Uncle, do you like to say what cannot be perceived should not be believed?”

Param Cha -- What is beyond reasoning is obviously falls either in the domain of fiction, fantasy, superstition or uncharted territory of science.

Key-words/phrases:

Reasoning

Gauze the depth of truth

What cannot be perceived should not be believed

What is beyond reasoning is obviously falls either in the domain of fiction, fantasy, superstition or uncharted territory of science

Something on the lighter note:

एक बच्चा दूसरे से -- जेल को हवालात क्यूँ कहते है?

दूसरा -- इसमें खाने में सिर्फ हवा और लात ही मिलती है,

इसलिये हवालात कहते है ।

"Weekend Namestey"
"A tribute to Param ChaCha"

Part-3

Param Cha -- What is beyond reasoning obviously falls either in the domain of fiction, fantasy, superstition or uncharted territory of science .

In order to substantiate his theory, Param Cha further elucidated his point of view by narrating his childhood experience.

There was no medicine/treatment available for Small-Pox. Small-Pox is a “serious infectious disease that causes spots which leave deep marks on the skin”.

People used to go Devi Asthan (देवी स्थान) of Shitla Maiya (शीतला मैया) in the hope that benevolent Devi (goddess) would cure the patient from the disease.

“Do you know why the name 'Shitla Maiya' was given to the Devi?”, asked Param Cha.

We, having no clue to the question, remained mum. He further elaborated that the patient of the small-pox felt much uneasiness, high temperature and unbearable pain. So in despair, such patient sought relief from someone divine. So named Her as 'Shitla' (शीतल - Cooling) Maiya - mother who gives cooling effect to such patient.

Fortunately, Science has offered the treatment by inventing vaccine. The dread of small pox is almost over.

Mercifully, now we have one god less from the galaxy of Hindu gods.

“So, science, not superstition, is the savior of mankind!” - declared Parm Cha. (Savior - who saves someone from danger or ruin).

Manas -- What would have been Param Cha's comment on Covid-19, had he been alive today?

After all no goddess, no 'Corona Maiya' is surfacing.

Akhil -- No 'Corona Maiya'? Actually, Corona is secular.

Manas -- Secular?

Akhil -- Corona embraces (infects) whoever comes in its close contact. It does not discriminate against anybody on the grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth.

Manas - Corona - secular - it sounds weird! Are you kidding?

Anyway, scientists have succeeded in making anti-Corona vaccine.

Akhil -- Oh, yes. Has not Param Cha said it earlier?

Manas -- What did he say?

Akhil -- "Science, not superstition, is the savior of the mankind!"

Key-words/phrases:

Small-Pox

Devi Asthan (देवी स्थान)

Shitla Maiya (शीतला मैया)

Vaccine

Covid-19

Corona Maiya

Science

Superstition

Savior

Something on the lighter note:

एक पत्नी अपने बिमार पति को पीट रही थी तो उसके सास ने पूछा-- क्यों बबुआ को मार रही हो?

पत्नी ने जबाब दिया--मांजी, यह आर्युवेदिक दवा है, वैद्य जी ने कहा है कि कूट कर पिलाना ।

"Weekend Namestey"
"A tribute to Param ChaCha"

Part-4

'Science, not superstition is the savior of the mankind'

Param Cha was narrating another experience of his childhood.

He said -- Whenever the eclipse occurred, Pandit Ji (the priest) used to come and narrate the story! It is Rahu and Ketu – the two demons who want to harm the Moon-god. As they cut the Moon, its size becomes smaller and smaller, and hence the lunar eclipse. The Moon regains its size after their departure because it has nectar within itself.

People used to give 'Daan-dakshina' (gift) to Pandit Ji so that they, i.e. the people, could be saved from the evil-effect of the eclipse.

Now, science has solved the mystery. It is moon responsible for solar eclipse when it comes in between the Sun and the Earth; and when the Earth comes in between the Sun and the Moon, it causes lunar eclipse.

Science has solved the mystery of eclipse .It is a natural phenomenon. It's an event to enjoy, and see the beauty of it, instead of treating it as a curse.

Akhil -- Uncle, we now know the reason how eclipse occurs. So the story of Rahu-Ketu and moon-god seems childish, but there are a lot of things about which we do not know yet.

Param Cha -- Such as?

Akhil -- such as aliens, dark-matters and black-holes -- to name a few among the vast list of the unknown matters. Yet, people with their fertile mind are writing Sci-Fi (science-fiction) and making films, cartoon animation and painting etc based on them. Such creations are considered today as masterpieces.

Tomorrow, they will be treated as figment of imagination of human mind, if science succeeds in discovering the mysteries of those phenomena.

Param Cha -- I would rather appreciate it as literature, but not and never as gospel's truth. Efforts shouldn't be made to attach divinity to such imagination or concoction -- it should not be garbed under the costume of religion.

AKhil -- Should such literature be discouraged?

Param Cha -- No, not at all! I would rather appreciate it but care must be had of the line -- the line that differentiates facts from fiction, truth from trivialities and reality from rhetoric!

Key-words/phrases:

Eclipse

Rahu and Ketu

Aliens

Dark-Matters

Black-Holes

Sci-Fi

Something on the lighter note:

एक वृद्ध दंपती संध्या में रास्ते पर टहल रहे थे, तभी पति ने झुककर रास्ते पर से कुछ उठाया.

पत्नी ने पूछा - क्या है?

पति - कुछ नहीं.

पत्नी - अरे, बोलो ना, अभी तो उठाया है और कह रहे हो कुछ नहीं. बताओ भी?

पति - आज कल के लड़के बड़े शैतान हो गये है,

ठीक सिक्के-रूपये के आकार में थूक देते है ।

"Weekend Namestey"
"A tribute to Param ChaCha"

Part-5

Kanti Didi joined our conversation, when Param Cha and I were talking about some matters.

Kanti Didi d/o Rama Cha retired as a Vice-Principal from Girls High school. She is a religious-minded lady. She takes active interest in Charity works. She donated Rs one lakh to Goshala for upkeep of cows. She has her houses in Darbhanga and in Samastipur also.

After formal greetings, she explained that she couldn't come earlier as she was very busy in the Yajna. She got it solemnized at her Darbhanga residence.

She further elaborated that the man who did Aarti (आरती) was specially invited from Rajasthan. He was a wonderful fellow. During Aarti, he used to dance with great speed holding Aarti-plate in his hands and throws it above and catches it back with all burning earthen-lamps intact on it. A wonderful sight to look at. Erudite Pundits were also invited from holy places who conducted the Yajna.

Param Cha -- How much did this Yajna cost you -- one Lakh?

Kanti Didi -- Much more than that!

Param Cha -- Had it not been better, if you would have spent this amount for helping the poor and helpless?

Kanti Didi, being a daughter of the family, knew her uncle and his views on god and religion well.

Kanti Didi -- Uncle, I feel a lot of satisfaction after Yajna, I feel peace and tranquility in my mind.

Akhil -- Uncle, it is a matter of faith. Even the Constitution of India guarantees to all its citizens "liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship"

Param Cha -- I have nothing to say if it was done for mental satisfaction. But if you did it for earning some 'Punya'(पुण्य), helping the helpless would have been a better option!

Key-words/phrases:

The Constitution of India

Liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship

Something on the lighter note:

अध्यापक - 'मर्ज बढ़ता गया ज्यों-ज्यों दवा की'

इस मिसरे में शायर क्या कहना चाहता है ?

छात्र (कुछ सोचते हुए) - सर, लगता है शायर का इलाज

किसी सरकारी अस्पताल में चल रहा है ।

"Weekend Namestey"
"A tribute to Param ChaCha"

Part-6

Param Cha -- They say God is the supreme power. How do you define supreme power?

Akhil -- First, we should try to define power – energy!

Param Cha -- Yes, go ahead!

Akhil -- Electricity is power – energy!

Is bulb electricity? No!

Is filament electricity? No!

Is switch electricity? No!

Is main switch electricity? No!

Is transformer electricity? No!

Is wires electricity? No!

Is thermal power electricity? No!

Is coal electricity? No!

Is burning coal electricity? No!

Then what it is?

It is difficult to define it even except explaining it by its usage - how it works or doesn't work!

Now, back to the main question -- What is supreme power? It is Paramatman (परमात्मा - Absolute Soul)

What is Paramatman?

It is Atamn (आत्मा - Individual Soul). Atamn and Paramatman are the same and one.

"The individual soul is like a spark thrown out and reabsorbed by the blazing fire of the absolute soul."

So, what is Atman?

Is it body? No!

Is it heart? No!

Is it brain? No!

Is it mind? No!

Then what it is? It is something without which eyes do not see, ears do not hear, mind does not think and intellect does not know.

It is the soul.

It cannot be described or defined except negatively -- नेति, नेति (Not this, not this).

Key-words/phrases:

Power

Energy

Paramatman (परमात्मा - Absolute Soul)

Atamn (आत्मा - Individual Soul)

नेति, नेति (Not this, not this)

Something on the lighter note:

फनी शर्मा नौकरी के लिये आवेदनपत्र भर रहा था,
उसे एक कॉलम के बारे में समझ में नहीं आ रहा था कि उसमें वह क्या भरे।
वहां लिखा था -- Salary expected

काफी देर माथापट्टी करने के बाद लिखा -- Yes

"Weekend Namestey"
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Part-7

Param Cha -- How could you say that it is a Atman that had left the body?

Akhil -- Call it by any name but this much is obvious that the organs of a living being cease to function after the departure of that force.

Had not Shakespeare said, "What's in a name? That we call a rose, by any other name would smell as sweet".

Param Cha -- what saints and monks say might be correct but to follow them without analysing their saying would be a tantamount to the blind following. Why not examine it scientifically?

Akhil -- Uncle, you have used the words such as science, scientific-temper, scientific-spirit so many times during our discourse. The main word is science.

Param Cha -- Yes, tell me what do you think by that?

Akhil -- There are several good definitions of science given in the books, but what I understand by the word is the knowledge based on the principle of cause and effect. If there is an effect, there must be its cause (reason). If there is a cause, it must have its effect. So, no scope of miracle!

Param Cha -- Explain it by an example.

Akhil -- if it rains (effect), there must be clouds (cause), if there are clouds (effect), there must be vapour (cause), if vapour is taken as an effect, there must be its cause, after all from where the vapour comes - the vapour comes from the water. The water is transformed into the vapour.

Why this transformation? It is caused by the sunrays falling on the water. In the summer, the water is heated much more -- so more vapour-- more clouds -- more rainfall during the summer.

So, the principle of cause and effect is the corner- stone of science. Uncle, do you agree with me?

Param Cha -- Yes, I do!

Akhil -- By the way, the Law of Karma of Hindu philosophy is also based on it, कर्मफल -- action and its result.

If an action is taken, no way to escape from its result. The only difference, to my mind, is the canvas, which is so big that it sometimes transcends the boundaries of one's life and death.

Param Cha – Better, confine yourself to this life only!!

Key-words/phrases:

Shakespeare

What's in a name

Principle of cause and effect

Law of Karma

Hindu philosophy

कर्मफल (action and its result)

"Weekend Namestey"
"A tribute to Param ChaCha"

Part-8

Param Cha -- You said that the principle of cause and effect is the corner-stone of science.

Akhil -- Yes, Uncle!

Param Cha -- Let us examine spiritualism on it, and find out how far it scientific is.

Akhil -- Now, a question arises, "What should be the starting point?"

Akhil -- What better could it be than starting it from you?!

Akhil -- Yes, Sir. I start it from myself. Who created me?

Certainly not I have created myself. Then who? My parents created me. Then who created my parents? Their parents! Again the same question who created their parents ? Their parents!! Again their parents and at last we reach to the first man (and woman) on this earth.

Then again the same question, “Who created the first man or woman on the earth?”

The answer, we find, is in the Theory of Evolution.

Monkey has been metamorphosed into human being. If this theory is accepted, then again the same question, “Who created monkey?”

Going deeper and deeper to the root, we would reach to the conclusion that beginning of the life started from the earth itself. The earth - the planet includes the land surface and oceans and seas i.e. the water also. The land surface has come out of the water -- oceans after a long process of surf and silting being solidified and turned into soil of the earth.

Now, how the earth - the planet was created? The sun is its creator. The earth is a planet and the sun is a star which is like a big, a very big fireball. The land and water i.e. the earth and the sun now the air -- fire cannot burn in absence of air and water is liquid (H₂O). It all came from the air! The air is itself mixture of gases. Out of this evolutionary process, two things namely matter and energy emerged.

Param Cha -- what is the source of their origin?

Akhil -- According to the Vedanta, as stated by Swami Vivekananda in 1897 :

"There is the unity of force, called Parana! There is unity of matter, called Akash. Is there any unity to be found among them again? Can they be melted into one? Our modern science is mute here; it has not yet found its way out!"

Param Cha -- According to science?

Akhil -- According to science, mass and energy were considered two different and distinct things until Einstein proved that all mass is concentrated energy and captured the relationship in his famous equation:

$$E = mc^2$$

Key-words/phrases:

Theory of Evolution

Parana (Energy)

Akash (Matter)

Einstein

$$E = mc^2$$

Something on the lighter note:

एक औरत हाथ देकर बस को रोकी

ड्राइवर - कहाँ जाना है?

औरत - जाना तो कहीं नहीं, बच्चा रो रहा है

जरा बस का पौं-पौं बजा दो

"Weekend Namestey"
"A tribute to Param ChaCha"

Part-9

Param Cha -- You quoted Einstein's famous equation $E = mc^2$, during our last conversation.

Akhil – Yes! "Einstein proved that the energy in any particle of matter is equal to its mass or weight multiplied by the square of the velocity of light", writes Paramhansa Yoganand in his famous book – 'Autobiography of a Yogi' and wittily added "The release of the atomic energies is brought about through the annihilation of the material particles. The "death" of the matter has been the "birth" of an Atomic age.

Param Cha -- What about Vedanta? Tell me clearly what it says about it.

Akhil -- Yes, Uncle! I try to explain.

Vedanta says that there is one and only one unifying power or intelligence or reality or pure consciousness behind everything including all animate beings and inanimate objects.

'एष सर्व भूतान्तरात्मा' 'एष सर्वेश भूतेषु गुढ' 'आत्मानंद'

Param Cha – Wait... wait! Check your passion!!

Akhil -- Allow me to complete it, Sir!

Param Cha – No! It sounds too pedantic, too philosophical and too subtle to comprehend - to understand. Tell me about Akash and Prana (matter and energy) from the point you left unfinished during our last conversation.

Akhil -- Yes, Uncle! Swami Vivekananda delivered his lecture on Feb 16, 1896 on the subject in New York City:

"We have resolved the whole universe into two components, into what are called matter and energy, or what the ancient philosophers of India called Akasha and Prana. The next step is to resolve this Akasha and the Prana into their origin. Both can be resolved into the still higher entity which is called mind. It is out of mind, the Mahat, the universally existing thought-power, that these two have been produced".

Param Cha -- What do you understand by 'Mahat'?

Key-words/phrases:

Paramhansa Yoganand

Autobiography of a Yogi

Vedanta

"death" → "birth" → "death" → "birth"

Swami Vivekananda

New York City

Mahat

Something on the lighter note:

एकवार होली के अवसर पर एक मुखिया जी अपने प्रखंड के सभी स्टाफ को भोज पर आमंत्रित किया. सभी लोग खाने बैठे. खाना स्वादिष्ट बना था.

'मीट' (नानवेज) की मांग हो रही थी. परोसनेवाला बड़ी भरी बाल्टी लेकर आता और शिरूआ (झोर-ग्रेवी) देकर चला जाता.

बार-बार मांग करने पर वही करता, परंतु इस बार मांग करने पर जैसे ही परोसनेवाला आया तो नाजिर बाबू खड़े होकर जल्दी से अपना धोती-कुर्ता निकालने लगे.

सभी लोग कहने लगे – “हा-हा ! नाजिर बाबू आप यह क्या कर रहे हैं?”

नाजिर बाबू बोले – “बाल्टी में डूबीकी मार कर देखते हैं कि इसमें पीस (बोटी) है या नहीं?”

लोग छठा के हंस पड़े. मुखिया जी शर्मिंदगी से भर गये तो किसी ने उनके कानों में धीरे से कहा-

'बुरा न मानो होली है' !!

"Weekend Namestey"
"A tribute to Param ChaCha"

Part-10

Param Cha -- What do you understand by ' Mahat '?

Akhil – Vivekananda Ji himself described 'Mahat' as the universally existing thought-power.

Param Cha -- Explain it further!

Akhil -- Everybody thinks through his own mind, but he actually thinks through that 'universally existing thought-power'.

Param Cha -- Do you mean to say that I think not through my mind and you think not through your mind but through 'universally existing thought-power'. It sounds weird! Clarify it further with an example!

Akhil -- I try! Uncle, you consume electricity in your house through bulbs, TV, heater or cooler, laptop and through various electric gadget, and I in my house, though your consumption and my consumption are quiet separate, yet we all consume the electricity generated by the

same power station (in the present case, Barauni Thermal Power Station).

Similarly, everyone thinks through his mind but it is out of Mahat that everybody thinks. There is no other thinker but HE, thinking through all minds.

Param Cha -- I know your brain is very fertile. That's why you illustrate 'Mahat' through electric consumption to Barauni Thermal Power Station.

Akhil -- Sir, it is not a question of my brain's fertility, but, of universal reality! I simply wanted to explain it by an example, though I know that comparing the infinite with the finite is well-nigh impossible.

Param Cha -- Why can't you express when you know it?

Akhil - Not to speak of transcendental vision, even material experience is sometimes difficult to express!!

Param Cha -- Such as?

Akhil - Uncle, your taste buds know the difference of sweetness between a mango and a 'Rasogulla' (रसगुल्ला) but your tongue can not express that difference except in degree -which one is better.

जिह्वा जानती है पर व्यक्त नहीं कर सकती ।

That's why Vedanta defines ultimate truth as:

'नेति-नेति' (Not this, Not this).

Or they say in superlative degree:

परं ब्रह्म (the supreme Brahman), परा गतिः (the ultimate goal), सत्यस्य सत्यम् (the truth of truth), परमात्मा (the absolute soul) or परमानंद - ***which is incidentally your name, Uncle!!***

Param Cha -- No fun, no deviation! Let us come back to the main point - what science says further on the topic?

Key-words/phrases:

Thought-Power

जिह्वा जानती है पर व्यक्त नहीं कर सकती

परं ब्रह्म (the supreme Brahman)

परा गतिः (the ultimate goal)

सत्यस्य सत्यम् (the truth of truth)

परमात्मा (the absolute soul)

परमानंद

Something on the lighter note:

A Drunken man gets on the bus late one night. Staggers up the aisle and sit next to an elderly lady.

She looks the man up and down and says "I have got news for you. You are going straight to hell. "

The man jumps out of his seat and shouts, "Man, I was on the wrong bus."

"Weekend Namestey"
"A tribute to Param ChaCha"

Part-11

Param Cha -- What does science say further on the topic?

Akhil -- "Though Einstein brilliantly demonstrated that energy and mass are equivalent energies differing only in their physical state, his struggle to arrive at a unified field theory was unsuccessful and pained him till his death in 1955."

Param Cha -- Swami Vivekananda Ji spoke of unity of Akasha and unity of Prana, and now Einstein's struggle to arrive at a unified field theory! What do you understand by 'unified' or 'unity'?

Akhil -- 'Unify' in the present context means, finding connection between forces that show that they are different manifestations of a single source. Meaning thereby scientists try to find out the single source from which all forces emerged -- originated. Put it simply - mother of all forces -- that's what scientists try to find out.

If I say it in Hindi:

सभी शक्तियों का उद्गम - माँ अथार्त आदिशक्ति!

Param Cha -- Mother of all forces - सभी शक्तियों की माँ - आदिशक्ति - alright, but don't confuse it with 'Adishakti', it has also a different connotation. Yes, go ahead!

Akhil -- The Nobel Prize winning discovery of Electro-Nuclear Force by Abdus Salam, Sheldon Glashaw, and Steven Weinberg has already condensed the five forces into three forces. Scientists are dreaming of a total unification of all forces through the Grand Unified Theory (G.U.T.).

Param Cha -- Name the forces which have been condensed into one and also two other forces?

Key-words/phrases:

Unified Field Theory

Mother of all forces – आदिशक्ति

Electro-Nuclear Force

Abdus Salam

Sheldon Glashaw

Steven Weinberg

Nobel Prize

Grand Unified Theory (G.U.T.)

Something on the lighter note:

.राम लाल --डाक्टर साहब,

चश्मा लगाने के बाद मैं पढ़ तो ठीक से सकूंगा न ?

डाक्टर साहब -- हाँ, हाँ -- विल्कुल ।

राम लाल -- तो फिर ठीक है,

वरना अनपढ़ आदमी की ज़िन्दगी भी कोई ज़िन्दगी है ।

"Weekend Namestey"
"A tribute to Param ChaCha"

Part-12

Param Cha -- Name the forces that have been condensed and also two other forces?

Akhil -- There are five forces namely:

**Electricity,
Magnetism,
Weak-Interaction,
Strong –Interaction, and
Gravity.**

Out of which,

Electricity + Magnetism = Electromagnetic Force.

Again, **Electromagnetic + Weak-Interaction = Electro-Weak Force.**

The three forces condensed into one are called Electro-Weak Force in scientific parlance.

The other two are:

- (i) **Gravitational Force**, and
- (ii) **Nuclear Force.**

Param Cha -- What is the latest position?

Akhil -- Scientists are trying hard to find out mathematical interpretation of the Grand Unified Theory (G.U.T.) but that still proved elusive.

Param Cha -- All things of the nature boil down to energy. So it is clear that the universe has not been created by any God.

Akhil -- Swami Vivekananda says, "This universe has not been created by any extra-cosmic god, nor is it the work of any outside genius. It is self-creating, self-dissolving, self-manifesting, one infinite existence, the Brahma!"

Param Cha -- What is Brahma?

Key-words/phrases:

Electricity

Magnetism

Weak-Interaction

Strong-Interaction

Gravity

Electricity + Magnetism = Electromagnetic Force.

Electromagnetic + Weak-Interaction = Electro-Weak Force

Self-creating

Self-dissolving

Self-manifesting

Brahma

"Weekend Namestey"
"A tribute to Param ChaCha"

Part-13

Param Cha -- What is Brahma?

Akhil -- Brahma means pure consciousness, the supreme reality, the god, the creator and ruler of universe, the extreme limit (पराकाष्ठा) ,the ultimate goal (परागति) ,and the supreme Brahman (परं ब्रह्म).

“HE is one and only one without a second.”

“HE is eternal, unmanifested, beyond name and form, devoid of characteristics of action with its factors and results!”

“वह साकार, निराकार, सगुण तथा निर्गुण से परे है।”

HE is beyond the principle of cause and effect.

There is no difference between absolute soul and individual soul, one who makes difference is ignorant.

The creation of the universe starts when HE manifests Himself.

Shankaracharya (जगद्गुरु शंकराचार्य) describes it thus:

"ॐ पूर्णमदःपूर्णमिदं पूर्णात्पूर्णमुदच्यते।

पूर्णस्य पूर्णमादाय पूर्णमेवावशिष्यते ॥"

"That is the whole, the whole is this, from the whole rises up the whole;
and having seized the whole of the whole, the whole alone remains."

Brahma - the unmanifested, is indicated by 'that'; and - the manifested
by 'this'!

Param Cha -- Explain it further!

Akhil – It can be explained mathematically.

Here, zero signifies whole (पूर्ण).

0 (-) 0 = 0,

0 (+) 0 = 0.

Param Cha -- What is minus?

Akhil -- 'Minus' means taken out of it - This manifested Braham comes out of the unmanifested Braham but both are whole (पूर्ण).

Param Cha -- What is 'Plus'?

Akhil -- When at the time of 'apocalypse' (प्रलय), the entire creation merges into it, the whole remains.

Param Cha -- For argument's sake, even if I agree to it, let me know how did they come to know about it?

Akhil -- Through meditation and trance. Body and Mind (काया) is the laboratory; and meditation & trance is the tool.

Param Cha -- How? What's the principle?

Akhil -because the basic principle is what is in the universe is in the body.

'यथा पिंडे तथा ब्रह्माण्डे'

'The macrocosm of the universe is mirrored in the microcosm of the mind.'

Param Cha -- Did they realize the ultimate truth?

Akhil -- Yes, they did, but a very few of them realised it.

That's why, Kabir, the famous saint of medieval India, says:

“बुंद समानी समुंद में, यह जानै सब कोय ।

समुंद समाना बुंद में, बूझै विरला कोय॥”

A poem of English literature also vaguely reminds me of it:

"To see a world in a grain of sand

and heaven in a wild flower!

Hold infinity in the palm of the hand

and eternity in an hour!! "

--William Blake.

Param Cha -- What is the contradiction between Vedic knowledge and the findings of our modern science?

Key-words/phrases:

Extreme limit (पराकाष्ठा)

The ultimate goal (परागति)

The supreme Brahman (परं ब्रह्म)

Shankaracharya

Apocalypse (प्रलय)

Macrocosm

Microcosm

Kabir

William Blake

बुंद समानी समुँद में, यह जानै सब कोय

समुँद समाना बुंद में, बूझै विरला कोय

0 (-) 0 = 0

0 (+) 0 = 0

"Weekend Namestey"
"A tribute to Param ChaCha"

Part-14

Param Cha -- What is the contradiction between Vedic knowledge and findings of our modern science?

Akhil -- I think the final verdict can be pronounced only after science discovers the ultimate truth.

Param Cha -- That's right, but tell me on the basis of discovery, science has made so far.

Akhil -- I'm neither a saint nor a scientist nor even a serious student of spiritualism or science. However, I try!

Param Cha -- Yes, try!

Akhil -- If we rely solely on the interpretation of Swami Vivekananda Ji –

Param Cha -- Why solely on Vivekananda Ji?

Akhil -- Because he was one of the first to present Vedic knowledge before the western world in the language of modern science.

Param Cha -- Alright, go ahead!

Akhil -- Vedanta says, "there is the unity of force, Prana; there is the unity of matter, called 'Akasha' but Einstein proved that "matter" is a condensed form of energy. So matter came into existence from energy.

Param Cha -- Whom do you believe?

Akhil -- Science.

Param Cha -- Why?

Akhil -- Because it proves theoretically, it gives mathematical interpretation and it is verified in the laboratory.

Param Cha -- “Something proved theoretically” and “verified in the laboratory”, what does it mean?

Akhil -- Einstein proved theoretically and published his famous equation $E=mc^2$ in 1907 but was verified in the lab exactly after twenty-five years under Rutherford's directorship at Cavendish Laboratory.

Param Cha -- So you believe in science.

Akhil -- Yes, definitely!

Param Cha -- Now You sound like an atheist!

Akhil -- Rather like your nephew, your ideological successor!!

Key-words/phrases:

Contradiction

Vedic knowledge

Findings of our modern science

Mathematical interpretation

Cavendish Laboratory

Ideological successor

Something on the lighter note:

Q - How do you make seven an even number?

A - You take the 's' off!

"Weekend Namestey"
"A tribute to Param ChaCha"

Part-15

Akhil -- Uncle, let it be borne into mind that Vedantic wisdom and scientific knowledge are the product of human mind and, thus, the common treasure of the mankind.

I said whatever a little bit knowledge I had regarding spiritualism and science. You patiently heard me occasionally making queries here and there with a view to make my statement easily understandable.

Now, please let me know what's your considered views on it ?

Param Cha -- On the one hand, science is still struggling to find out the Grand Unified Theory (G.U.T.), let alone the ultimate truth, while on the other hand spiritualism, claimed to have reached on the acme of it, has not made the world any safer and better.

The entire landscape of history of human civilization is strewn with corpses sacrificed on the altar of religious rivalries.

Man is still savage and cruel, and the world full of filth, dirt and greed in spite so many jewels of mankind realized the so-called ultimate truth.

So, why not look around ourselves and serve the family and society to the best of our capacity, instead of chasing something which is vague, mysterious and beyond comprehension.

I don't believe in god. I don't believe in 'life after life '.

The Journey which is called life starts with conception ends with cremation (birth ends with burial) of human body, rest is fantasy or imagination of human mind.

Key-words/phrases:

Vedantic wisdom

Scientific knowledge

Product of human-mind

Spiritualism

Human civilization

Belief in life after life

Non-belief in life after life

The Journey which is called life starts with conception ends with cremation (birth ends with burial) of human body, rest is fantasy or imagination of human mind

"Weekend Namestey"
"A tribute to Param ChaCha"

Part-16

Param Cha breathed his last over a decade ago. His mind was alert in the late evening of his life. His memory was sharp even in the 'dying-over' of his life. He died in his mid-nineties.

Uncle, you never believed in a 'life after life ' nor in heaven or hell.

So customary sentences like - 'May your soul rest in peace' would be a disrespect to your philosophy of life. Hence, salutation to those discussions, nay, Satsang where we tried to find out the nuances of the nature and religion!

Salutation to those forceful arguments of Param Cha which guided me to see everything through the prism of science and, thus, helped me develop a scientific temperament!!

Salutation to those golden moments and those fond memories!!!

Key-words/phrases:

Param Cha

Philosophy of life

Something on the lighter note:

दो सहेलियां आपस में बात कर रही थी।

पहली -- अपने पति के नजरों में मैं दुनियां की सबसे खूबसूरत महिला हूँ।

दूसरी -- हाँ बहन, मेरे पति की नजर भी कमजोर हो गई है।

A MEMOIR

PARAM CHA

AKHILESHWAR
PRASAD